

Kenilworth Town Council Climate Emergency Working Group

Update Report April 2024

• Working Group Structure

- **Composition** – The working group continues to comprise 5 KTC councillors and a cross-section of residents including representatives from significant local groups e.g. Bee-friendly Kenilworth.
- **Meeting frequency** – The initial monthly meeting frequency was reduced to every-other month from September, recognising the large span of activities and providing more of an opportunity for action completion.
- **Subgroups launch** – Recognising the ever-growing activities and projects that require attention from the Climate Emergency Working Group, it was agreed in March to establish subgroups to focus on key subject areas. They would develop proposals for review at the full meeting, to enable us to move more swiftly on our growing agenda. Subgroups include:

Participant Name	Biodiversity	Communications	Connecting with Business	Connecting with Youth	Sustainable Transport	Carbon Mitigation and Adaptation
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Each subgroup will:

- Agree a subgroup lead
- Define the scope of the subgroup
- Map out a plan of aims with timings
- Meet as a minimum every other month (between full climate group meeting)
- Report to the full group on proposals and needs

• Carbon Mitigation and Adaptation



Thermal Camera Loan Program has been a great success with great feedback from residents, but the popularity has also extended waiting lists for residents wanting to borrow the mobile-phone enabled thermal scanning capability. Purchase of additional cameras, covering iOS and Android platforms has reduced waits.

• Biodiversity

- **Cherry Orchard**
 - Discovered pre-existing 2016 Management Plan, which covered grassed areas only
 - September meeting KTC / WDC / WCC representatives on site (notes shared)
 - WCC update management plan to incorporate the surrounding woodland area by Jan24

○ **Tree Planting**

- Following a meeting with WCC, WDC and KTC Climate Group, it was agreed that KTC would take the program lead, going forward, for coordinating all tree planting programs in Kenilworth, moving away from the past, point-based, initiatives.



Funded by WCC Councillor discretionary budgets, a group of volunteers, including KTC councillors, planted 22 trees on the street side verges around Kenilworth, spanning the 5th and 7th February. We had great feedback from residents, who agreed to nurture the new trees during their early years. We plan to do more planting in early 2025.

- Additionally, we shared an HS2 offer of surplus saplings allocation with local community organisations and this resulted in an allocation of tree saplings to Kenilworth School, who will be planting these in the fields to the rear of the school buildings.

○ **Talisman Square flower relocation**

- The Climate Group have supported the Friends of Talisman Square with their relocation of floral assets from Talisman square to Kenilworth School and Station Road locations, following an ultimatum from Cobalt Estates.

○ **Wildflower verge planting**

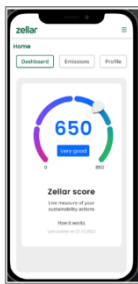
- Working in conjunction with Bee Friendly Kenilworth, we have a plan for wildflower verge planting at all entry points into Kenilworth. This is supported by approved funding from KTC, with completion Sep/Oct. We will recruit volunteers closer to the time.

○ **Consultation survey submission to WCC on Rights of Way**

- The Climate Group provided a well thought through response to the WCC survey, with insights being shared to aid understanding of local issues.

● **Connecting with Business (in conjunction with Business Task and Finish Group)**

- Free educational event was proposed for businesses on sustainability (ESG), followed by potential free roadmap and generic action plans supported by a local sustainability consultant (Climate Group member), but very limited interest shown through the Business Expo in November.



A new £4.6Million fund launched by WCC Business Support Program launch in December is promised to provide active support to businesses on application. Energy audits and a 'Zellar' carbon footprint tool feature.

- Sustainability was included as a specific area of questioning in the recent Businesses survey before Christmas, however, the limited participation levels by local businesses did not flag this area as a concern.
- Sustainability business support.
- **Recycling**
 - A number of councillors have participated in the plastic sorting activity at tKC over the past months to aid Plastic Free Kenilworth
- **Best Practice sharing with WALC**
 - A representative of Warwickshire Association of Local Councils joined the Climate Group meeting in January to share best practice insights.
- **Communications:**
 - A review of past Climate Newsletters and Roadmaps has resulted in some recommendations on media and formatting, which the Communications subgroup will review, with a focus on electronic storage and delivery.
 - There has been an expansion of forthcoming events publishing on the Kenilworth Web.
- **Connecting with Youth:**



Kenilworth School Eco-Committee

KTC Climate Emergency Group, with members of the Friends of Talisman Square & Bee Friendly Kenilworth, visited Kenilworth's School to hear about the work of the Y13 Eco

Committee, to find out how the Town Council can support their work.

- Actions were agreed to address points raised during the school discussions:
 - Car engine idling issues whilst parents await children leaving school.
 - Student parking in streets/cul-de-sac near to the school.
 - Air quality monitoring experiments
 - Student/staff active travel choices

- To understand actual energy performance data reduction and carbon reduction Improvements to address school's reduced environmental protection / carbon-reduction caused by cost savings during build.
 - Sharing KTC Climate Group insights at the school about green jobs and buildings
 - Improvements to school communication of Eco-Committee activities
 - KTC support to Eco-Fayre at the school on **Thursday, 20th April.**
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- **Forthcoming Events**
 - **Eco-Fayre at Kenilworth Methodist Church (18th May)** We have reserved a table at this event to share insights into what KTC Climate Group has been doing and plans looking ahead. This would hopefully include the next newsletter and possibly roadmap too, but would also include the thermal imaging camera load facility that KTC supports.
 - **Clean Air Day (16th June)** Plans are progressing well, which is expected to include potential road closures (awaiting approvals) and air monitoring (before and on the day of the event). We are also working with the EV group at Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) at the University to provide some interactive experiences.
 - **Nature Watch (Spring Half Term week)** – As in previous years, this is targeted to maximise participation and interest from children. However, there will be no preceding Spring Fayre in Talisman Square this year, so other promotion routes will be needed.

Cllr. Mark Stevens

Chair of Climate Emergency Working Group